China's concern about cross-border terrorism

2961. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item in the Times of India dated 2nd March, 2000, that Pakistan would not support Afghan militants or separatists fighting for independence in North-West China's Xinjiang region ;

(b) if so, whether Government are also aware that Chinese concern seems confined to Xinjiang and that Beijing appeared unconcerned by cross-border terrorism in Kashmir ; and

(c) if so, the reaction thereto.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) Yes, Sir. Government are aware of the report appearing on 2nd March, 2000, in the Times of India.

(b) and (c) The spokesperson of the Chinese Foreign Ministry, while commenting upon the hijacking of IC-814 in December 1999, had reiterated China's consistent and clear-cut policy to firmly oppose and strongly condemn all forms of terrorist activities. China is also a signatory of the Joint Statement issued at the Shanghai-5 Defence Ministers' Meeting held on March 30, 2000. The Joint Statement issued at the end of the meeting stated that all parties would not tolerate ethnic separatism, religious fundamentalism or terrorism.

Discussion between Foreign Minister and his Italian Counterpart

2962. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether he had reviewed the global menace of terrorism in the context of the IC-814 hijack with his Italian counterpart Dr. Lomberto Dini in Rome on 12th Jan. ;

(b) if so, the outcome of the review ;

(c) whether Afghanistan situation was also discussed ;

(d) if so, whether Afghanistan situation was identified as a factor strengthening international terrorism ; and

(e) if so, details thereof ?